

(b) if so, whether the work has since been taken up by CBI; and [English]

(c) the nature of complaints made and the extent to which irregularities in the National Institute of Science Communications have been curbed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) Irregularities in the matter of procurement of printing material, purchase of office furniture, recruitment/assessment promotions were alleged at National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM), a constituent of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Assistance of anti-corruption branch, CBI was sought in the matter, who after examination advised CSIR to investigate the matter departmentally and seek their assistance, if required. A one man committee headed by a retired Secretary to Govt. of India has been appointed for detailed examination of the allegations.

[Translation]

Rural Management Institutes

3588. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Rural Management Institutes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal has been received from Bihar in July 1996 for setting up of Rural Management Institute on the lines of Anand (Gujarat); and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration either in this Ministry or in the Ministry of Human Resource Development. However, in terms of the All India Council for Technical Education Act, any institution imparting training in management requires permission of the Council for its establishment.

(c) and (d) A reference dated 12.7.1996 in this regard was received from the Minister for Cooperation, Information and Public Relations, Minorities Welfare and Art, Culture, Youth Affairs, Government of Bihar addressed to the then Union Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, who in turn had forwarded that latter to the Union Minister of State for Agriculture. Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Agriculture has informed that Department is not contemplating setting up Rural Management Institute anywhere in the country including Bihar.

Land Reforms

3589. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of implementation of land reforms as assessed/reported by the State Governments in the latest conference in terms of targets set, State-wise;

(b) the details of progress made in this regard during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the details of special and fresh initiatives taken by the Government during the last year for effective implementation of the land reforms and the results achieved therefrom; and

(d) the action plan formulated by the Government for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Targets are set, State-wise for distribution of ceiling surplus land only, not by a resolution of any conference but on certain principles, lately on the basis of net area available for distribution as reported by the States in the Fourth Quarterly Progress Report of the preceding year. However, the Conference of the Revenue Ministers/Secretaries of the States are held from time to time, the latest of which was held on 28.1.97 which *inter-alia* assessed the status of implementation of land reforms including distribution of ceiling surplus land.

(b) Progress made in distribution of ceiling surplus land during the last 3 years, with State-wise break-up is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) During the last year, all major issues pertaining to land reforms including the two special agenda under the Common Minimum Programme were taken up for effective deliberation and implementation through time-bound programmes in the meetings of the Revenue Secretaries held on 26th and 27th November, 1996 and also in the meeting of the Revenue Ministers held on 28th January, 1997. As per the recommendations of the aforesaid conferences, the State Governments are taking necessary steps for speedy implementation of various land reform measures.

(d) During the current year, State-wise target for distribution of ceiling surplus land have already been fixed and communicated to respective States. For strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updation of Land Records the Budgetary allocation of Rs. 18.80 crores have been made.

In Addition, for supporting the ongoing programme of computerisation of land records as well as computerisation of cadastral maps, an amount of Rs. 20 crore have been allocated for the current financial year. Some reputed institutions/organisations including National Institutes have been engaged for independent evaluation and assessment of the existing tenancy laws, laws relating to restoration of tribal land etc.,

with the objective of preparing model legislation for plugging the loopholes of the existing legislation, which is an important agenda of the Common Minimum Programme of the Government.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Year 1994-95		Year 1995-96		Year 1996-97	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1.	Andhra Pr.	103180	13002	7578	10773	9000	3427
2.	Assam	57280	8359	38040	3228	28570	3163
3.	Bihar	94000	4156	4515	5816	3300	1841
4.	Gujarat	40270	4499	1600	1530	1600	1892
5.	Haryana	2380	285	4483	189	1460	534
6.	Himachal Pr.	1970	0	4183	0	NF	
7.	J & K	6000	0	5575	0	NF	
8.	Karnataka	32000	717	NF		8160	937
9.	Kerala	9230	239	1992	171	2620	185
10.	Madhya Pr.	50000	200	922	85	9260	280
11.	Maharashtra	14250	739	238	471	520	421
12.	Manipur	50	0	3	0	NF	
13.	Orissa	5680	1069	696	833	870	956
14.	Punjab	15180	96	80	50	50	277
15.	Rajasthan	35750	6579	8190	8898	5050	3444
16.	Tamil Nadu	5330	5346	102	3354	1320	3173
17.	Tripura	60	0	NF		10	0
18.	Uttar Prad.	56970	11249	947	5624	5000	4870
19.	West Bengal	32990	5267	98	10788	NF	
20.	D & N Haveli	690	125	343	76	340	0
21.	Delhi	460	0	NF		NF	
22.	Pondicherry	140	0	31	0	100	0
		563860	61927	79616	51886	77230	25402

NF : Targets not fixed mainly on the ground that, as per the report of the State Governments, there was not net ceiling surplus land available for distribution free from all encumbrances.

Ispat Group

3590. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn

to the news-item captioned "Ispat Group juggles its funds" appearing in the Indian Express, dated July 19, 1977;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Merger of Poverty Alleviation and Employment Scheme

3591. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to merge poverty alleviation programme and employment oriented programmes and to allocate more funds for it;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the amended programme is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the poverty alleviation programmes and employment oriented programmes; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to remove the shortcomings in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Government propose to revamp and redesign various Centrally Sponsored poverty alleviation and rural employment programmes.

(c) and (d) Various programmes implemented by the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment are reviewed through monitoring mechanism which, *inter-alia*, consists of obtaining periodical progress reports/returns, financial returns/audit reports, intensive field inspections, reviews and monitoring by Committees and by senior officers. Besides, the Government regularly reviews implementation of programmes in various States through the Central Level Coordination Committees, State Level Coordination Committees and at the district level by the governing body of District Rural Development Agencies.

Conversion of Railway Line

3592. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to convert railway line between Bareilly Junction and Izzatnagar city workshop;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the conversion work is likely to be started?